

II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please insert the following paragraph on page 4 on line 20 after the paragraph beginning on line 18:

Figure 5 shows a schematic side view of a packaging machine according to an aspect of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21 through page 5, line 18 as rewritten below:

Figure 1 shows part of the displacement unit 1. The displacement unit 1 is part of a packaging machine, which comprises a thermoforming, a filling, a sealing and a cutting station. The displacement unit may assume one of the last three functions. On the displacement unit 1, in the present case a transverse cutting station, there is arranged a packaging item support means 2, a wire cable 2. The cable 2 is deflected by means of the four rollers 6 and is connected detachably with its ends 3, 4 to the displacement unit 1. The packaging trays 8, which move in the direction represented by the arrow, are supported in such a way by the cable 2 that the film from which the respective packaging trays are formed does not sag either lengthwise or crosswise relative to the running direction thereof. The person skilled in the art will recognise that a plurality of packaging trays 8 may be arranged one behind the other in the paper plane and accordingly a plurality of packaging item support means 2 are also arranged one behind the other. The rollers 6 are mounted on the plug-in strips 7, which are positioned flexibly on the transverse strips 10 and screwed thereon. By using plug-in strips 7 it is possible for the packaging machine according to

this invention to be adjusted flexibly to the particular pack shape or size. This displacement unit 1 is driven by means of the toothed belt 9 and a motor, ~~not shown,~~ 15 and may be displaced in the direction represented by the double-headed arrow. Conventional packaging item support means are located up and downstream of the displacement unit relative to the running direction of the film. The length of the cables 2 may be adapted to the length of the displacement unit.

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 6 after line 25:

Figure 5 is a schematic drawing of a packaging machine according to one embodiment. A base film 42 is rolled off a roller and first passes through a thermoforming station 43 comprising an upper tool 44 and a lower tool 45. The lower tool 45 is mounted on a plate 46, which, as indicated by the arrow, may be raised and lowered. Packaging trays 47 are formed into the film in the thermoforming station 43.

Then, the packaging trays 47 are filled with packaged goods 54 and the packaging trays 47 are sealed with a lidding film 55 in the downstream sealing station 48. The sealing station 48 also comprises an upper tool 49 and a lower tool 50 which can be lowered and raised as shown by the arrow. Prior to the sealing station, a punch machine 56 is arranged to punch holes in the base film for gas exchange in the package.

Finally, the packaging is cut apart in the cutting station 51. The cutting station also comprises an upper tool 52 and a lower tool 53, the cutting station has a traverse cutter to cut the packages out of the films.